



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Desert Talon, Dec.
- Christmas "96," 24-27 December
- New Year's "96," 31 January- 3 December
- Martin L. King Day "72," 15-17 January

A Note from the Commanding Officer

SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS IN FALLUJAH; HOLIDAYS ARRIVE

Early next year, Marines and Sailors of CSSG-15 will begin redeploying back from OIF II. Some deployed out in May as additions to our Table of Organization (T/O), and their seven-month commitment will be completed shortly. Their deeds and successes have been tremendous and the entire CSSG-15 family is proud of these Marines and Sailors. As we

enter into the holiday season, our thoughts and prayers are with those CSSG-15 Marines and Sailors who are forward deployed to Iraq. Day in and day out, they are providing premier combat service support to all forces in the Al Anbar province. We are all truly proud of their selfless sacrifice and tremendous courage in an austere environment.

By the time you receive this newsletter, a successful operation in Fallujah will be completed and follow-on engagements in other cities will be conducted in the hopes of establishing a secure environment for Iraqi National elections. Our commitment to one another and the Iraqi populace will have a long reaching impact for a more stable Middle East.

As we prepare for the holiday season, let's remember those families who have service members forward deployed and reach out to them. From my family to yours, I hope everyone has a safe and joyous holiday season.



Happy Birthday In Every Clime and Place CSSG-15 Forward

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ELLEN DEGENERES THANKSGIVING SHOW

The Ellen Degeneres Show held a special Thanksgiving show for families of deployed troops. Several family members from 1st FSSG were selected to be on the show to include two of our own Key Volunteers for CSSG-15- Misty Chalk and Lauren Sklenka. Congratulations to them and all other families who represented the military community on the show.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following Marines **promoted during Oct and Nov** to the rank indicated:

H&S Co: Pfc Arevalo, Rogelio E; LCpl Poblano, Alonso; LCpl Moore, Alycia R; LCpl Campos, Maura L; LCpl Fuentes, Rene A; LCpl Romo, Richard Jr; Cpl Abrao, James D; Cpl Fendrick, Jared V; Cpl Harris, Robert M; Cpl Rhea, Jordan T; Cpl Snow, Jeffrey A; Cpl Zuppke, Thomas S; Cpl Robertson, Thomas D; LCpl Perez, Daniel A; LCpl Hill, Steven J; LCpl Flores, Angel A; Sgt Lujano, Amanda V; Sgt Houser, Stacy L; Cpl Gonzales-Reyes, Rocky R; Cpl Garcia, Misael C; LCpl Killman, Rose; LCpl Gibson, Brandon L; LCpl Arguello, Jonathan M; LCpl Curiel, Eliazar Jr; LCpl Pokorski, Michael E;
Supply Co: LCpl Deason, Nesben L; LCpl Solis, Ruben Jr; LCpl Luna, Sergio A; Cpl Fitzpatrick, Jeffrey M; Cpl Frazier, Deshawn M; Cpl Hittu, Edward F; Cpl Jackson, Leon C; Cpl Valle, Eyra E; Cpl Yi, Arnold; Sgt Chitica, Stephanie; LCpl Rodriguez, Christopher M; Cpl Vazquez, Maria F; Cpl Tran, My Q; LCpl Perry, Tarin R; LCpl Becerra, Marvin J; Cpl Bezada, Luis C; Cpl Hernandez, Gaston; Sgt McGee, Jonathan D; Cpl Vicente-Diego, Reynaldo; Cpl Recinos-Flores, Mynor A; Cpl Oregonovoa, Will F; LCpl Martinez, Ceasar;
MedLog Co: LCpl Butler, Giovanni M; **RMC:** LCpl Riley, Travis J; Pfc Zamora, Eric; Cpl Menser, Randall D; LCpl Watkins, Michael A; Cpl Mateo-Jimenez, Lucia F; Cpl Lagasse, Leigh R; Cpl Genton, Joshua C; LCpl Jimenez-Felix, Herman B; Cpl Bartelt, Robert G; Cpl Dixon, Richard A; Cpl Larsen, Eugene A; Cpl Pinson, Brian K; Cpl Reynolds, Sean M;

News from Iraq

PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT

Lance Corporal Duff, of St. Petersburg, Florida, was wounded from shrapnel resulting from the blast of a detonated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on 23 September. He sustained various injuries, but as you can see from the photos, he is fine now.

Lance Corporal Duff is a Motor Transport Operator-Driver in our General Support Motor Transportation Company, which is primarily made up of Marines & Sailors from our Reserve Component 6th Motor Transport Battalion. Most of these Marines & Sailors left their jobs as EMTs, Policemen, Firemen, Contractors, Construction Foremen, Horse Farmers, Students, Carpenters, Teachers, and a whole host of other occupations. GS Motor Transport Company is arguably the most eclectic group out here, and they are performing like the true professionals that they are. The degree of esprit and the tightness of the bonds within that company are truly inspiring when you consider that GS Motor Transport Company only recently came together as a company after drawing personnel from widely disparate geographic locations throughout our nation.

Lance Corporal Duff is 21 years old, and while his Reserve Training Center is located in Orlando, Florida, his parents-Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Deborah Duff-reside at his home of record, Springfield, Missouri. Prior to being activated, LCpl Duff was a student in a local college in Orlando. Once activated, he went to Camp Pendleton with the rest of the company to undergo extensive pre-deployment training and preparations. So far, he and his platoon

have successfully executed 20 combat resupply convoys within the Sunni Triangle.

Brigadier General Kramlich, the Commanding General of 1st Force Service Support Group (our major command out here) presented the Purple Heart to Lance Corporal Duff in a company formation with Colonel Larson, the Commanding Officer, present as well. His fellow Marines and Sailors are justifiably proud of their brother Marine. As I've said in the past, these Marines & Sailors are performing wondrous deeds out here. All of their families and friends can take pride in all of their actions.



General Kramlich & LCpl Duff

In Letters & Calls Home...

Steve sent Olivia a little dog tag necklace in the mail the other day. She was so excited to receive it, she called it her jewels. We were just leaving for preschool when it arrived so of course she wanted to wear the necklace. When it came time for her recess the playground monitor asked Olivia to remove her necklace to insure she wouldn't get hung up on anything. Olivia refused to take it off. The teacher then said it is dangerous to wear that if you are running. Her response was "I'll just wait in the classroom until recess is done." It's amazing to me how much sentimental value a 3-1/2 year old put on that gift.

Lauren Sklenka, H&Q



KEY VOLUNTEER NETWORK

CARE PACKAGE KITS. Priority Mail supplies are the packaging of choice for families preparing holiday care packages to mail to service members overseas. To help meet the current demand, Marketing has created a "Mili-kit" based on the most frequently items ordered by the military. The kit contains five each of Box-4, Box-7 and Mili-Pac, one roll of Priority Mail tape and 10 customs forms with envelopes. The kit may be ordered by calling 1-800-610-8734 and requesting CAREKIT04.

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS. Check with Military Outreach Ministries and/or Operation Homefront for food baskets around the holidays. Military Outreach can be reached by calling (877) 895-5942 or visiting www.militaryoutreach.org. Operation Homefront can be reached by calling (866) 424-5210 or visiting www.operationhomefront.net.

TALK RADIO STATION KOGO or 600AM has a radio personality named Roger Hedgecock. His show airs from 3:00-6:00 pm weekdays. While listening on line www.KOGO.com He and his group stated they will be collecting cards, letters, notes of well wishing. They want to distribute these to wounded and injured military personnel who returned from Iraq and are now recovering in Balboa and Camp Pendleton Hospitals. You can mail letters to: American Hero's, C/O KOGO Radio, 9660 Granite Ridge Drive, San Diego, CA 92123.

MILITARY SPOUSE VIRTUAL TRAINING WORKSHOP. This training is to teach military spouses how to start, market and grow their own Virtual Assistant business. An MSVA is an independent contractor working from home, providing support services to businesses- ranging from secretarial work to bookkeeping to complex corporate consulting- via e-mail, phone and fax. Some of the types of services Virtual Assistants offer are: Academic Writing, Accounting, Business Writing, HR Expertise, Medical Transcription, Spreadsheets, Billing, Legal Assistant, Web Design and much more!!!

To participate in this exciting training workshop, spouses must go to the following web site: http://www.msvas.com/application_pendleton.htm. The application deadline is January 3, 2005. The class runs February 17, 24, March 3, 5:30pm- 9:00pm at the Abby Reinke Community Center. There is an application process since we can only fit 10 people in the class. Those who have successfully completed the application process will be notified after the application deadline. Please follow the instructions for the application very carefully. If a section is not filled out completely and accurately, you may not be selected for this course.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings,

I have been with CSSG-15 now eleven months, having deployed to Iraq with our scarlet team. I had the privilege of serving beside Marines and Sailors who worked and fought in a dangerous environment. We were very blessed within CSSG-15 to bring back everyone who went over on the scarlet team.

While deployed, I prayed daily for those of us in Iraq and for the families back here. God was most gracious in sustaining all of us during the separation. Now I continue to lift up in prayer those Marines and Sailors currently deployed,

and their family members here at home. These are difficult times for all of us, but God is able to give us the strength, determination, and peace to make it through.

The Bible says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Turn to God and allow him to meet all your deepest needs.

By the way, if you ever need someone to talk to, please give me a call at 725-4539 or stop by my office. God be with you.

Chaplain McGaha

FYI

- **OIF II Hotline: (866) 227-2708.** This hotline is intended for concerned family members seeking accurate information, useful resources, and helpful referrals related to OIF II casualties.
- **The Key Volunteer Network Website** accessed through the following website address: <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/msc/1fssg/KVN/deployed/cssg15deployed.html>
- **Thank you** to the following who have made donations to the KVN or companies for the deployed Marines: **Ginger Bord** and the **Rancho Santa Fe Seniors, Inc.** for a large donation of items to send to our Marines and Sailors in care packages. **Rose Sliepka** at **1st Place Awards** and her contributors who donated over 13,000 dog tags so far. The dog tags are sent to the troops in Iraq and they send them back to their children at home.
- **CSSG-15** has a new **Family Readiness Officer.** While LtCol Sklenka remains our FRO in Iraq, Major Fabiano is now the Battalion's new Family Readiness Officer. Your Key Volunteer is still your primary contact but you may also contact Major Fabiano at (760) 725-3976.